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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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May 24, 2004

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller *tm*

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGHWAY
SAFETY COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the Los Angeles County Highway Safety Commission's sunset review date be extended to October 31, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Highway Safety Commission (HSC or Commission) was established by the Board pursuant to Chapter 15.16 of the Los Angeles County Code. The most recent sunset renewal was approved by the Board at its May 18, 1999 meeting. The HSC replaced the Los Angeles County Traffic Committee, which had been in existence from 1931 to 1960.

The HSC considers and investigates all requests or suggestions regarding traffic control made by the Board, the Commissioners, any officer, private person or group of persons, and submits its report and recommendations to the Board. The HSC cooperates with all other jurisdictions and agencies within the County to:

- Eliminate and prevent major traffic problems.
- Develop uniform standards for street striping, curb painting, placement of signs, reflectors, crosswalks, and similar safety devices.
- Recommend speed regulations and traffic signals.
- Ensure maximum traffic safety.

The HSC consists of seven members, five appointed by the Board of Supervisors (one from each supervisorial district) and two members nominated by the Board Chair from a list provided by private and parochial schools and the Los Angeles County Board of

Education. Commissioners are entitled to receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed four meetings per month. Two current Commissioners have elected to waive the stipend.

The HSC meets quarterly or as needed. From January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2003, the HSC held 35 meetings with an average attendance of five (71%) members. DPW estimates annual Commission expenditures of \$26,500 for staff support, stipends, and other expenses.

JUSTIFICATION

The HSC recommends to the Board and County departments appropriate traffic control measures throughout the unincorporated portions of the County. This includes recommending traffic signals, stop controls, pedestrian actuated flashing beacons, crossing guards, disabled parking zones, as well as other traffic control measures.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) receives approximately 2,000 requests per year from residents for the installation of traffic control devices. The HSC serves as an appeals board for citizens who disagree with DPW's decision. If DPW denies a request and one appeal, it notifies the resident of their right to appeal to the HSC. At the same time, DPW also notifies the HSC. During this review period, the HSC heard 39 appeals. Fifteen of these were granted, 23 were denied, and one is pending.

The Commission's goal for the upcoming evaluation period is to continue to be an appeal board for residents who disagree with traffic related decisions of the DPW.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:DR:RD
Attachments

c: Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations
Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services
Marvin W. Estey, Chair, Highway Safety Commission
Irena Guilmette, DPW, Traffic and Lighting Division

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission. **CONCUR**

Section 1. Relevancy. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

In its role as an appeals board for citizens who disagree with decisions of the Department of Public Works (DPW), the HSC fulfills its responsibility to consider and investigate all requests related to traffic control. **RELEVANT**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The HSC meets quarterly or as needed. From January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2003, the HSC held 35 meetings with an average attendance of five (71%) members. **SATISFACTORY**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

The HSC heard 39 appeals of DPW traffic related decisions. Fifteen of these appeals were granted, 23 denied, and one is pending. **SIGNIFICANT**

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The HSC is an appeals board for citizens who disagree with decisions of the Department of Public Works regarding installation of traffic controls or modification of existing traffic regulations. **RELEVANT**

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

HSC members received a \$25 stipend for each meeting they attend, not to exceed four per month. Currently there are two members that waive their stipend.

The HSC does not have a separate budget. All Commission related expenses are paid from DPW's budget. DPW estimates annual Commission expenditures of \$26,500 for staff support, member stipends, and other expenses. **WARRANTED.**

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION TO OCTOBER 31, 2007.

**HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Commissioner	Nominated By	3/31/99	6/30/99	9/30/99	12/31/99	3/31/00	6/30/00	9/30/00	12/31/00	3/31/01	6/30/01	9/30/01	12/31/01	3/31/02	6/30/02	9/30/02	12/31/02	3/31/03	6/30/03	9/30/03	12/31/03	Totals	% Attend
Number of Meetings per Quarter		2	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	35	
Guillermo William Villalobos	1st District	2	2	0	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	29	83%
Rhett Samuel Price	2nd District	2	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	25	71%
Robert A. Ringler	3rd District						1	1	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	23	85%
Angelo Bufalino	4th District	2	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	2											19	100%
John A. Spix	4th District												1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	15	94%
Lawrence R. Adamy	5th District	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	15	43%
Roberta M. Farrell	BOS Chair *	2	3	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	3	1	2	1		27	79%
Thurston T. Reese	BOS Chair *																			0	1	1	33%
Marvin W. Estey	BOS Chair *	1	3	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	31	89%
Totals		9	16	0	6	9	17	6	12	18	11	0	5	6	5	12	16	11	10	11	5	185	

Average Attendance per Meeting - - - - - >

5.3

* These Commission members are nominated by the Board of Supervisor's Chair and approved by the Board of Supervisors.